

Common Acronyms Used in Finding and Creating Affordable, Accessible, Integrated Housing

ABA—Architectural Barriers Act of 1968: requires that facilities designed, built, altered, or leased with funds supplied by the United States Federal Government be accessible to the public.

ANSI—American National Standards Institute: oversees the development of voluntary consensus standards for products, services, processes, systems, and personnel in the U.S.

CDBG—Community Development Block Grants: an annual appropriation allocated between states and local jurisdictions that are distributed to ensure decent affordable housing, provide services to the most vulnerable members of a community, and to create jobs through the expansion and retention of businesses.

CDC—Community Development Corporation: a developer who is building affordable housing.

CHDO—Community Housing Development Organization: a developer who is building affordable housing.

CoC—Continuum of Care: a planning process that governs homeless assistance funds from HUD.

ConPlan—Consolidated Plan: five-year comprehensive housing strategy that governs Community Development Block Grant, Emergency Shelter Grant, HOME Program, and Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS programs. The Plan controls how federal funds will be used to increase affordable housing.

FHEO—Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity: an office of HUD that administers federal laws and establishes national policies to ensure that Americans have equal access to the housing of their choice.

HCV—Housing Choice Voucher: the largest federal affordable housing program, operated by state and local Public Housing Authorities, provides “tenant-based” rental assistance or can be used to apply toward the purchase of a home for lower income families.

HFA—Housing Finance Agency: a state agency which offers a limited amount of below-market-rate home financing for low- and moderate-income households.

HOME—HOME Investment Partnerships Program: the largest federal block grant program available to states and localities to promote affordable housing.

HOPWA—Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS: provides housing assistance and related supportive services.

HUD—U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development: the federal agency responsible for creating inclusive communities and quality affordable homes.

LIHTC—Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program: an indirect federal subsidy used to finance the development of affordable rental housing for low-income households.

MFP—Money Follows the Person: a federal Medicaid program used to assist individuals from a nursing facility or hospital to a residential setting in the community. MFP funds can cover costs of setting up an apartment and one-time transition expenses.

NHTF—National Housing Trust Fund: a provision of the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008, which, once capitalized, will provide communities with funds to build, preserve, and rehabilitate rental homes that are affordable for extremely and very low income households.

NOFA—Notice of Funding Availability: the method used by federal agencies to announce the availability of funding and request proposals.

NSP—Neighborhood Stabilization Program: a type of CDBG aimed at stabilizing communities that have suffered from foreclosures and abandonment.

PHA—Public Housing Agency: locally controlled agency that receives funds directly from HUD and controls most of the affordable housing resources. Most PHA assistance is closely targeted to households that are at or below the poverty line.

PRA—Property-Based Rental Assistance: maintains the voucher assigned to a property rather than the individual.

PSH—Permanent Supportive Housing: assists individuals to locate decent, safe, and affordable community-based housing that provides residents with the right of tenancy and is linked to voluntary, flexible support and services designed to meet residents' needs and preferences.

UFAS—Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards: developed and maintained by the U.S. Access Board, serve as the basis for the standards used to enforce the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968.

USDA—U.S. Department of Agriculture: includes programs and funding for rural development in housing and other resources.